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# Inside Report . . . . .

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

## The Fulbright Furor

ONE MONTH ago, when the Johnson Administration was playing midwife in the birth of a new government in Santo Domingo, Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark.) temporarily laid aside his scathing indictment of U.S. intervention in the bloody Dominican revolution.

Fulbright's reason for delay: With the new government of U.S.-backed Hector Garcia Godoy barely coming into its own, the highly critical analysis of U.S. actions during the late April uprising might set back the whole affair. Fulbright, Chairman of the once-prestigious Senate Foreign Relations Committee, decided to postpone his condemnation of U.S. policy.

But when it came last week, the Fulbright speech was just as ill-timed as it would have been a month earlier.

THIS was President Johnson's appraisal. When he received a copy of the speech 24 hours before its delivery in the Senate, he scanned it briefly.

His immediate complaint: Fulbright's one-sided view of U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic last April would receive far more attention than it deserved (because he is Foreign Relations Committee Chairman) and embarrass the future course of U.S. diplomacy in the Dominican Republic.



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But in fact, remarked the President to a Senator, the Fulbright critique did not represent even a simple majority of the 19-member Committee.

This raises a serious issue: In critical matters of foreign policy, how candid should a Senator of Fulbright's prestige be in attacking and undermining the Government's policy in such a dangerous confrontation?

Until recently, a major controversy such as the one over U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic would have come before Fulbright's Committee for a long, reasoned investigation (far more thorough than the quickie probe by the Fulbright Committee this summer). This, in times past, would have resulted in a Committee report backed by a strong majority. But today, Fulbright's 19-man Committee is split into almost 19 parts, representing every shade of opinion.

As the Committee has

gradually increased in size to accommodate ambitious Senators (from 13 members in 1947 to 19 members today), its ability to act in unison has declined drastically.

FURTHERMORE, Fulbright is a uniquely original thinker, the antithesis of the organization man or Senate type. Under his chairmanship, the Committee has succumbed to factional bickering so severe that Fulbright threatened at one point to refuse to handle the foreign aid bill.

As a result, it is now every man for himself on the Committee. But Chairman Fulbright, as the embodiment of the Senate's unique constitutional powers in foreign affairs, still has a special responsibility to consider the results of what he says and its impact outside the United States.

In the Dominican Republic, the impact of Fulbright's speech [described by Sen. Thomas E. Dodd (D-Conn.) as "a sweeping condemnation" of U.S. policy] is predictable. With all Dominican politicians pointing to the next presidential election there, the Fulbright indictment is certain to lift the chances of the most anti-Yankee candidate in the field.

By dramatizing so harshly his own disillusion with the U.S. decision to intervene, the Senator gives

the most extreme anti-U.S. political factions in the Dominican Republic a ready-made presidential campaign text. The condemnation of Washington that will soon be ringing from the hustings in Santo Domingo will be flavored with the Senator's own ringing condemnation.

Nobody questions Fulbright's unlimited right to condemn U.S. policy. What critics in the Administration—and the Senate as well—question is his timing.

FINALLY, these critics challenge the Senator's disregard of the sudden chaos last April in Santo Domingo and the impressive evidence of deep Communist penetration of the rebel command.

When Dodd made his reply on Thursday, the White House was concerned enough to give security clearance to a censored report on the full extent of Communist influence in the April revolt. The report alone is a compelling argument for the intervention.

But in the Dominican Republic, Fulbright's attack will be remembered long after the intelligence report is forgotten.

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